

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 11 are amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. The amendments do not add new matter. It is also respectfully submitted that the amendments place the claims in condition for allowance and/or simplify the issues on appeal. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be entered. Claims 1-11 and 13 are rejected. Applicants respectfully traverse.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully disagrees that the term “said gateway” in claim 11 is indefinite. The claim is directed to a gateway, and the reference to said gateway refers to this gateway. The only other gateways mentioned in the claim are the “other gateways” to which the gateway is connected. Applicant respectfully submits that, since the reference on line 15 of claim 11 does not refer to “other gateways”, the reference refers to the gateway to which the claim is directed. Therefore, Applicant submits that the claim is definite and respectfully requests that the rejection under § 112 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,426,955 to Gossett Dalton, Jr. et al. (hereinafter Dalton).

Claim 11 recites the feature of a gateway that transmits a call-in enable/disable inquiry message to the other gateways before transmitting a call setting message to one of the other

gateways. The gateway according to claim 11 selects one of the other gateways corresponding to a transmission source of a call-in enable/disable inquiry response message to transmit the call setting message to the selected gateway. Each of the other gateways in claim 11 return, when receiving the call-in enable/disable inquiry response message, the call-in enable/disable inquiry response message if the other gateway itself has a current state that can accept a call setting message received from a gateway.

Dalton apparently discloses that the source gateway 108 attempts to setup a call with one of the listed destination gateways 114a-c, based on the order described in the list (see column 14, lines 18-31). In other words, the source gateway sends a setup message to one of the listed destination gateways, sequentially. Also, the service point does not confirm whether or not to be able to accept a call about each of the listed destination gateways. In this case, if there is a plurality of destination gateways that don't accept the call, establishment of the call is delayed. Dalton merely discloses the same technique described in the Related Art of the present specification (Specification; figure 13).

On the other hand, the gateway recited in claim 11 inquires whether to be able to accept a call setting message of the other gateways, directly, through simultaneously sending the inquiry message to the other gateways. The gateway of the present invention then can receive responses from the other gateways simultaneously. Therefore, a time for establishing the call can be shortened. Dalton fails to teach or suggest the above-mentioned feature of the present invention. Therefore, the present invention recited in claim 11 is not anticipated by Dalton.

Claim 13 depends from claim 11 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11 is allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalton.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 relates to a call setting method for a network system. The method of claim 1 includes, *inter alia*, each of the second gateways when receiving the call-in enable/disable inquiry message, judging whether the second gateway itself can communicate the call setting message to the second line switching network so that each of the second gateways transmits a call-in enable/disable inquiry response message to the first gateway only when it is judged that the second gateway itself can communicate the call setting message to the second line switching network, the call-in enable/disable inquiry response message is received by the first gateway through the IP packet network. Additionally, the method in claim 1 includes the first gateway selecting one of the second gateways that corresponds to a source of the received call-in enable/disable inquiry response message, to transmit the call setting message to the selected second gateway.

Dalton apparently describes distributing multiple service points to multiple systems. However, Dalton does not discuss or suggest the feature of responding to a request among multiple gateways. Since Dalton does not disclose or suggest each gateway judging whether the second gateway itself can communicate the call setting message to the second line switching network so that each of the second gateways transmits a call-in enable/disable inquiry response message, Dalton does not render claim 1 unpatentable.

Additionally, the present invention recited in claim 1 includes a similar feature as recited in claim 11. That is, the first gateway transmits the inquiry message to the second gateways at the same time, to confirm the second gateways allowing acceptance of the call setting message

from the first gateway, simultaneously, through receiving the inquiry response message. Since Dalton fails to teach or suggest this feature, the present invention recited in claim 1 is distinguished from Dalton. Therefore, claim 1 is not rendered unpatentable by Dalton.

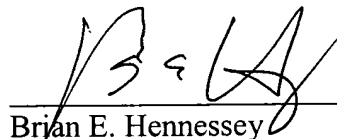
Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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